

Appendix A
Marked Up Claims Pursuant To 37 CFR 1.121

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1. (Twice Amended) A method for improving resolution of a current mode driver, where the current mode driver is operable to provide an output that falls within a predetermined range, the method comprising the steps of:

sensing at least one of a process condition, a voltage condition and a temperature condition with a PVT detector;

adjusting a full scale current of a DAC in accordance with an output of the PVT detector [the sensing step]; and

setting a current control signal based on an output of the DAC, the current control signal being applied to the current mode driver to improve resolution of the current mode driver.

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14. (Twice Amended) In an output driver that is operable to provide a[n] multi-PAM output having at least two levels[that falls within a predetermined range], wherein the output is set in accordance with a current control signal, a method of improving resolution of the output driver, the method comprising the steps of:

applying the current control signal to cause the output driver to sink a full scale current;

providing a PVT detector to sense a characteristic that comprises at least one of a process condition, a voltage condition and a temperature condition;

generating a full scale current adjustment signal at the PVT detector; [and]

applying the full scale current adjustment signal to alter the full scale current of the output driver;

applying the current control signal to cause the output driver to sink a second current, wherein the second current is less than the full scale current;

sensing, at the PVT detector, at least one of a process condition, a voltage condition and a temperature condition;

generating a second current adjustment signal at the PVT detector;

applying the second current adjustment signal to alter the second current of the output driver; and

calibrating the altered full scale current of the output driver and the altered second current of the output driver by comparing the altered full scale current with a first reference and comparing the altered second current with a second reference.